United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea SPLOS/271

Meeting of States Parties

Distr.: General
12 May 2014

Original: English

Twenty-fourth Meeting
New York, 9-13 June 2014

Note verbale dated 8 May 2014 from the Permanent Mission of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The Permanent Mission of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and has the honour to refer to the twenty-fourth Meeting of States Parties to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea to be held from 9 to 13 June 2014.

The Permanent Mission of the United Kingdom kindly requests that the present note and its annex be circulated under agenda item 11 (c), entitled "Consideration of budgetary matters of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea: Proposal by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland for a mechanism to scrutinize budgets of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (SPLOS/260 and Corr.1)" as a document of the Meeting of States Parties.

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Annex to the note verbale dated 8 May 2014 from the Permanent Mission of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Proposal for a facilitation group

International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea: better budget understanding

The current Open-ended Working Group (OEWG) does not work well for many States parties to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, which wish to obtain more information on how a draft budget of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea was put together. The Open-ended Working Group, effectively the plenary by another name, provides little opportunity for States parties to ask sufficient or detailed questions of the Tribunal Registrar.

The United Kingdom wishes to improve the objective examination of budget proposals for the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea. In advance of the twenty-third Meeting of States Parties to the Convention, the United Kingdom circulated a proposal for a mechanism to scrutinize budgets of the Tribunal (SPLOS/260). During the discussion of the proposal, some States parties expressed reluctance to introduce any new process and raised concerns regarding the possibility of incurring further costs, a potential lack of transparency, and a possible duplication of work of the Open-ended Working Group. The proposal below, for a facilitation group, seeks to meet the concerns.

Facilitation group

The purpose of a facilitation group would be to improve States parties' understanding of how a draft budget was reached, what assumptions were made, what considerations were taken into account, and why. The group would provide an opportunity for any delegation that wished to do so to ask questions of the Registrar of the Tribunal about these matters. In doing so, there would be more time in the Open-ended Working Group to explore positions, perceived problems and possible solutions.

- The facilitation group would meet early during the week of the Meeting of States Parties to the Convention.
- The facilitation group would be chaired by a State party, on a rotational basis among geographical groups. It would be attended by the Registrar of the Tribunal.
- The facilitation group would be open to all States parties to the Convention, with non-States parties entitled to observe.
- To encourage questions and allow broad participation, States parties' questions could be time-limited (for example, to five minutes) with further rounds of questions to follow once all delegations in attendance had had an opportunity to put their initial questions. Questions could also be submitted in writing in advance.
- The facilitation group session would remain open as long as was necessary until the Open-ended Working Group discussions commenced. If it was necessary to close the facilitation group before all questions posed had been

answered, these could be submitted and answered in writing and made available to all States parties.

- There would be no official report of the group. It would have no mandate to negotiate changes in the draft budget or to make recommendations to the Open-ended Working Group. In essence, group meetings would be a question-and-answer session, the purpose of which would be to aid delegations' understanding of how the Tribunal arrived at a draft budget.

Meeting of States Parties

Distr.: General
3 June 2014

Original: English

Twenty-fourth Meeting
New York, 9-13 June 2014

Election of one member of the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf

List of candidates nominated by States parties

Note by the Secretary-General

1. Pursuant to article 2, paragraph 1, of annex II to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf shall consist of 21 members who shall be experts in the field of geology, geophysics or hydrography, elected by States parties to the Convention from among their nationals, having due regard to the need to ensure equitable geographical representation, who shall serve in their personal capacities.

2. In a note dated 27 February 2014, the Secretary-General invited States parties to submit, from 3 March to 2 June 2014, the names of candidates whom their Governments might wish to nominate for the election of one member of the Commission, together with statements of qualifications of such candidates.

3. Article 2, paragraph 2, of annex II to the Convention provides that the Secretary-General shall prepare a list in alphabetical order of all persons thus nominated and shall submit it to all the States parties. The nominations submitted by States parties to the Secretary-General in reply to his request are set out in the annex to the present note.

4. At the end of the nomination period, on 2 June 2014, the Secretary-General had received one nomination, submitted by the Government of India on 18 March 2014. Pursuant to article 2, paragraph 2, of annex II to the Convention, the name of the candidate thus nominated is set out in the annex to the present note. The curriculum vitae of the candidate will be circulated electronically in advance of the meeting.

5. The election of one member of the Commission will take place at the twenty-fourth Meeting of States Parties, to be held at United Nations Headquarters from 9 to 13 June 2014. The procedures to be followed by the meeting are set out in a note by the Secretary-General (SPLOS/269).

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Annex

List of candidates

Name and nationality	*Nominated by*
Rasik Ravindra (India)	India

Meeting of States Parties

Distr.: General
9 June 2014

Original: English

Twenty-fourth Meeting
New York, 9-13 June 2014

Agenda

1. Opening of the twenty-fourth Meeting by the President of the twenty-third Meeting.
2. Minute of silent prayer or meditation.
3. Election of the President.
4. Adoption of the agenda.
5. Election of the Vice-Presidents.
6. Appointment of the Credentials Committee.
7. Organization of work.
8. Commemoration of the twentieth anniversary of the entry into force of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.
9. Report of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea to the Meeting of States Parties for 2013 (SPLOS/267).
10. Information reported by the Secretary-General of the International Seabed Authority.
11. Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf:
    (a) Information reported by the Chair of the Commission (SPLOS/270);
    (b) Conditions of service of the members of the Commission.
12. Consideration of budgetary matters of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea:
    (a) Report on budgetary matters for the financial periods 2011-2012 and 2013-2014 (SPLOS/268);
    (b) Draft budget proposals of the Tribunal for 2015-2016 (SPLOS/2014/WP.1);
    (c) Proposal by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland for a mechanism to scrutinize budgets of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (SPLOS/260 and Corr.1, SPLOS/271).

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13. Report of the Credentials Committee.

14. Election of seven members of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (SPLOS/264, SPLOS/265 and SPLOS/266).

15. Election of one member of the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf (SPLOS/269 and SPLOS/272).

16. Report of the Secretary-General under article 319 for the information of States parties on issues of a general nature, relevant to States parties, which have arisen with respect to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (A/68/71/Add.1 and Corr.1, A/69/71).

17. Other matters.

United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea SPLOS/274

Meeting of States Parties

Distr.: General
17 June 2014

Original: English

Twenty-fourth Meeting
New York, 9-13 June 2014

Credentials of representatives to the twenty-fourth Meeting of States Parties to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea

Report of the Credentials Committee

Chairperson: Mr. Bjørn **Kunoy** (Denmark)

1. On 9 June 2014, the twenty-fourth Meeting of States Parties to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea appointed a Credentials Committee consisting of the following nine States Parties: Angola, Argentina, Australia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Kenya, Iraq, Paraguay and Viet Nam.

2. The Credentials Committee met on 10 June 2014 and elected Mr. Bjørn Kunoy (Denmark) as Chairperson by acclamation.

3. The Committee had before it a memorandum by the Secretariat, dated 10 June 2014, on the status of credentials of representatives participating in the twenty-fourth Meeting of States Parties to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

4. As noted in paragraph 1 of the memorandum, formal credentials issued by the Head of State or Government or by the Minister for Foreign Affairs or by a person authorized by either of them had been received by the Secretariat for the representatives of the following 92 States participating in the twenty-fourth Meeting of States Parties: Algeria, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Cabo Verde, Cameroon, Canada, China, Cook Islands, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Djibouti, Egypt, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nauru, Netherlands, New Zealand, Niue, Norway, Oman, Panama, Paraguay, Philippines, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Senegal, Serbia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sudan, Sweden,

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Switzerland, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Viet Nam and Zimbabwe.

5. As noted in paragraph 2 of the memorandum, information concerning the appointment of representatives participating in the twenty-fourth Meeting of States Parties had been communicated by means of facsimile or in the form of letters or notes verbales from ministries, embassies, permanent missions to the United Nations or other Government offices or authorities, or through local United Nations offices, by the following 62 States participating in the twenty-fourth Meeting: Albania, Angola, Armenia, Bahrain, Belarus, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Chad, Chile, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Fiji, Gabon, Ghana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lithuania, Malawi, Mauritania, Micronesia (Federated States of), Montenegro, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Pakistan, Palau, Poland, Qatar, Republic of Moldova, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Swaziland, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Yemen and Zambia.

6. In addition, information concerning the appointment of representatives has also been received from the delegation of the European Union to the United Nations.

7. The Chairperson proposed that the Committee should accept the credentials of all the representatives mentioned in the memorandum by the Secretariat on the understanding that formal credentials of the representatives referred to in paragraph 2 of the Secretariat's memorandum, would be communicated to the Secretariat as soon as possible. The following draft resolution was proposed by the Chairperson for adoption by the Committee:

> *The Credentials Committee*,
>
> *Having examined* the credentials of the representatives to the twenty-fourth Meeting of States Parties to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea referred to in the memorandum of the Secretariat dated 10 June 2014,
>
> *Accepts* the credentials of the representatives concerned.

8. The draft resolution was adopted by the Committee without a vote.

9. Subsequently, the Chairperson proposed that the Committee should recommend to the twenty-fourth Meeting of States Parties the adoption of a draft resolution (see para. 11 below). The proposal was adopted without a vote.

10. In the light of the foregoing, the present report is submitted to the twenty-fourth Meeting of States Parties to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

Recommendation of the Credentials Committee

11. The Credentials Committee recommends to the twenty-fourth Meeting of States Parties the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Credentials of representatives to the twenty-fourth Meeting of States Parties to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea

The Meeting of States Parties to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea,

Approves the report of the Credentials Committee.

United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea SPLOS/275

Meeting of States Parties

Distr.: General
2 July 2014

Original: English

Twenty-fourth Meeting
New York, 9-13 June 2014

Decisions on budgetary matters of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea for 2015-2016

1. The Meeting of States Parties, having considered the draft budget proposals of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea for 2015-2016 (SPLOS/2014/WP.1), approved the amount of €18,886,200 as the budget of the Tribunal for 2015-2016, which represents a reduction of €1,159,100 compared with the proposed budget as it appears in annex I to the above-mentioned document. The Meeting notes that this represents a decrease of €2,352,920 compared with the amount approved for the financial period 2013-2014.

2. Pursuant to regulation 5.3 of the Financial Regulations and Rules of the Tribunal (SPLOS/120), the contributions of States parties for each of the two years of the biennium 2015-2016 shall be determined on the basis of half of the appropriations adopted by the Meeting of States Parties for that financial period.

3. On the basis of the report on budgetary matters for the financial periods 2011-2012 and 2013-2014 (SPLOS/268), the Meeting notes that the surplus cash from the financial period 2011-2012 amounts to €879,051. The Meeting decided that, of that amount, €529,051 would be surrendered and deducted from the contributions of States parties for 2015, in accordance with financial regulation 4. It also decided that an amount of €350,000 would be transferred, on an exceptional basis, to the Working Capital Fund, to cover the cost of considering cases that cannot be met from the funds allocated for case-related costs.

4. The Meeting encourages the Registrar to continue to manage the funds in a prudent and efficient manner, trying to achieve optimum utilization of the financial resources of the Tribunal. The Meeting requests the Registrar to explore ways of making additional savings in the budget of the Tribunal, keeping in mind the need for the Tribunal to function effectively, and to report on this matter to the Meeting at its next session.

5. Without prejudice to the application of the provisions of article 19 of annex VI to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea in respect of future budgets of the Tribunal regarding the contribution to be made by the International Seabed Authority, the budget of the Tribunal for 2015-2016 will be financed by all States

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parties to the Convention. The European Union indicated that the amount of the agreed contribution to the budget of the Tribunal would be €85,365 for each year.

6. The Meeting also decided that a floor rate of 0.01 per cent and a ceiling rate of 22 per cent are to be used in establishing the rate of assessment of States parties for the budget of the Tribunal for 2015-2016.

United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea SPLOS/276

Meeting of States Parties

Distr.: General
1 June 2014

Original: English

Twenty-fourth Meeting
New York, 9-13 June 2014

Decision regarding the conditions of service of the members of the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf

The Meeting of States Parties,

Reaffirming the importance of the work of the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf for coastal States and the international community as a whole,

Noting with appreciation the continued efforts undertaken by the Commission to consider the submissions by coastal States in a timely, efficient and effective manner,

Mindful of the workload of the Commission owing to a large number of submissions already made and the number of submissions which are expected to be made in the future,

Recognizing the need to ensure that the Commission can effectively perform the functions entrusted to it under the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, while maintaining its high level of quality and expertise,

Recalling the decision of the twenty-first Meeting of States Parties regarding the workload of the Commission (SPLOS/229), including the request to the Commission to consider meeting in New York for up to 26 weeks but not less than an intended minimum of 21 weeks a year,

Taking note with appreciation of the decisions by the Commission to hold, in both 2013 and 2014, three sessions of seven weeks each, including plenary meetings, for a total of 21 weeks of meetings of the Commission and its subcommissions, and to adopt new working arrangements for its subcommissions,

Recognizing the special challenges of developing States Parties whose experts are serving on the Commission, and, in this regard, the important role of the Voluntary Trust Fund for the purpose of defraying the cost of participation of the members of the Commission from developing States in the meetings of the Commission,

Concerned about the implications of the workload of the Commission for the conditions of service of its members,

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Taking note of the results of an internal survey conducted by the Commission during its thirty-first session of the conditions of service of its members,

Concerned about the lack, or inadequacy, as appropriate, of medical insurance coverage of most members of the Commission while in performance of Commission duties at United Nations Headquarters and convinced that this issue requires urgent attention,

Recalling the decision of the twenty-third Meeting of States Parties to establish an open-ended working group to consider the conditions of service of the members of the Commission stipulated in paragraph 77 of the report of the meeting (SPLOS/263),

Recalling also paragraph 71 of General Assembly resolution 68/70, in which the Assembly reiterated the obligation of States under the Convention whose experts are serving on the Commission to defray the expenses of the experts they have nominated while in performance of Commission duties,

Recalling further paragraph 72 of General Assembly resolution 68/70, in which the Assembly urged, in this regard, States to provide medical coverage for the experts they have nominated while in performance of Commission duties and to do their utmost to ensure the full participation of those experts in the work of the Commission, including the meetings of subcommissions, in accordance with the Convention,

Recalling paragraph 78 of General Assembly resolution 68/70, in which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to explore options for providing medical insurance coverage to members of the Commission from developing States, whose participation may be facilitated through the voluntary trust fund for the participation of the members of the Commission from developing States in the meetings of the Commission, while in performance of Commission duties at United Nations Headquarters, and to circulate his findings to Member States in advance of the twenty-fourth Meeting of States Parties to the Convention,

Welcoming the work done by the open-ended working group to consider the conditions of service of the members of the Commission,

1. *Reaffirms* the obligation of States under the Convention whose experts are serving on the Commission to defray the expenses of the experts they have nominated while in performance of Commission duties, including the provision of medical coverage, and urges these States to do their utmost to ensure the full participation of those experts in the work of the Commission, including the meetings of subcommissions, in accordance with the Convention;

2. *Takes note with appreciation* of the findings by the Secretary-General in response to the request in paragraph 78 of General Assembly resolution 68/70 regarding options for providing medical insurance coverage to members of the Commission from developing States, and invites the Secretary-General to continue his work in this regard as a matter of urgency, with a view to making his additional findings available by November 2014;

3. *Urges* the General Assembly, at its sixty-ninth session, to take any necessary measures in the light of these findings, which may include the extension of the terms of reference of the Voluntary Trust Fund for the purpose of defraying

the cost of participation of the members of the Commission from developing States in the meetings of the Commission;

4. *Also urges* States that are in a position to do so to make voluntary contributions to the Voluntary Trust Fund for the purpose of defraying the cost of participation of the members of the Commission from developing States in the meetings of the Commission, and, in this regard, welcomes recent contributions made or pledged by States Parties;

5. *Decides* to continue the consideration of other conditions of service of the members of the Commission stipulated in paragraph 77 of the report of the twenty-third Meeting of States Parties (SPLOS/263) within the open-ended working group;

6. *Also decides* to take up and review matters related to the conditions of service of the members of the Commission at the twenty-fifth Meeting of States Parties under the item "Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf".